

## **UPDATE ON INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF FREEDOM FROM EI**

The World Organisation for Animal Health has proclaimed Australia to have eradicated Equine Influenza (EI).

Tim Mulherin, Minister of Primary Industries & Fisheries, said, "the international declaration was a monumental achievement with significant economic and practical benefits for many Queenslanders". He said, "eradication cost \$40 million, however it was worth it for the international recognition. The cost to eradicate EI was significant, but what we stood to lose was even greater, and it wasn't just one off losses." He said if the disease had taken hold it would have burdened the industry and horse owners every day, every season, and every year, with its continual presence.

**Allison Crook, Chief Inspector of Stock, DPI&F has provided the following:-**

## **REGISTRATION OF HORSE EVENTS IS NO LONGER MANDATORY**

From Monday 12 January 2009, the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) no longer requires mandatory notification of all horse events held in Queensland.

However, event organisers are encouraged to continue to use the event registration system to record their events as a voluntary notification system. This will enable the DPI&F to contact event organisers and provide information should an emergency situation arise while an event is running.

It is recommended that event organisers and participants continue to follow the good biosecurity measures put in place during the equine influenza response to minimise the risk of spread of infectious diseases.

Event organisers are recommended to continue to:

- collect information on all horses attending events,
- maintain strict biosecurity at events, and
- not allow sick horses to attend events.

Event participants are reminded that they have a responsibility to maintain good biosecurity practices and should not knowingly take sick horse/s to an event.

**Equine influenza remains a notifiable disease in Queensland. Anyone suspecting EI should immediately call their veterinarian or the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.**

Look for **QHC's Guidelines for Equestrian Events Organisers and Competitors** soon to be on our website:

[www.qldhorsecouncil.com](http://www.qldhorsecouncil.com)

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